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NSC BRIEFING

9 February 1955

CHINESE OFFSHORE ISLANDS

I. Evacuation of the Tachens--which may be completed this weekend--has been uneventful thus far. ChiComs have pursued cautious policy, despite warning that "serious consequences" will result from US "participation in Chiang Kai-shek's military operations."

A. ChiCom naval vessels operating in strength near Tachens before evacuation began were apparently withdrawn from area. Only ships sighted were few torpedo boats 17 miles north of Tachens (6 Feb.).

B. ChiCom aircraft have not appeared in evacuation area, and apparently did not attempt to intercept US planes which overflowed mainland near Shanghai on <sup>SAND</sup> 6 February. (No PROPAGANDA BLAST, EITHER).

C. [REDACTED] reported on 8 Feb that ChiCom high command had ordered its forces in and around Formosa Strait to "take no action unless provoked."

D. [REDACTED] also reported atmosphere in Peiping was calm, that clash with US forces did not seem to be expected.

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II. ChiComs have taken some action, however, against US aircraft flying over Communist-held territory.

- A. Peiping on 7 February cited US overflights of coastal islands, declared: "If US Air Force ventures to intrude into China's territorial air again, US Govt must bear all the serious consequences...."
- B. Same day, US jet fighters were fired on from Comm-held islands north of Tachens.
- C. US attack bomber hit by AA fire over Comm-held Sungmen Peninsula, 15 miles SW of Tachens, on 9 Feb. US Navy source quoted to effect this incident "not hostile," as plane "misnavigated" and was "off limits."
- D. ChiComs continue increase air strength in Shanghai area.

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III. Elsewhere in coastal islands area situation is quiet, but ChiCom preparations continue.

A. [REDACTED] airfield at Foochow

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reveals Comms have constructed antenna fields there. This further indication Foochow field being improved. When field completed, planes operating from Foochow could be used for attacks on Matsus and Quemoy, also Formosa and Pescadores.

B. Unusually heavy movement of ChiCom vehicles and artillery noted on coast north of Quemoy 7 February. ChiComs may be repositioning or reinforcing artillery for renewed heavy shelling of Quemoy as test of US intentions.